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An anomaly of chaetotaxy of pedipalpal chela in *Neobisium carcinoides* (Arachnida: Pseudoscorpiones)

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Observations of anomalies in the trichobothrial pattern in pseudoscorpions are rare. Some aberrations in Neobisiidae have been described by ČURČIČ (1992): irregular distribution of some trichobothria on both pedipalpal chelae although normal setal count is maintained; reduction in the number of trichobothria due to reduced size or some other anomaly of one or both pedipalpal chelae; and the occurrence of a supernumerary trichobothrium at a normal length of both pedipalpal chelae.

One similar anomaly of chaetotaxy in *Neobisium carcinoides* (HERMANN, 1804) has been observed within our study of the pseudo-scorpion fauna in the Czech republic. The specimen was collected on the "Mrtvý luh" peat bog in the Šumava mountains (Bohemia or.), 740 m altitude, in October 1993 (leg. J. BUCHAR).

Neobisium carcinoides: Female: The right pedipalpal chela is normal. The left chela is normal in all respects except for a supernumerary trichobothrium on the fixed finger. This supernumerary trichobothrium occurs between the **est** and **isb**, closer to the **isb**. Its distance from the **est** is 2.5-fold larger than its distance from the **isb** (Fig. 1).

We suggest that the occurrence of the supernumerary trichobothrium in this position can be looked upon as a variety which may be indicative of the possible future evolution of the chaetotaxy. In the "chaetotaxy of the Neobisium type", **esb** and **isb** are absent from the deutonymphs and **isb** is absent from the tritonymphs (HELVERSEN 1966), so that the occurrence of the supernumerary trichobothrium is abnormal prolongation of this sequence of chaetotaxy development.

The chaetotaxy of pedipalpal chelae plays a fundamental role in the taxonomy and is also employed as one of the criteria when assessing the

relationships between the various groups of pseudoscorpions and their systematic classification (HARVEY 1992). Therefore, occurrences of anomalous chaetotaxy should be reported (see ČURČIČ 1992).

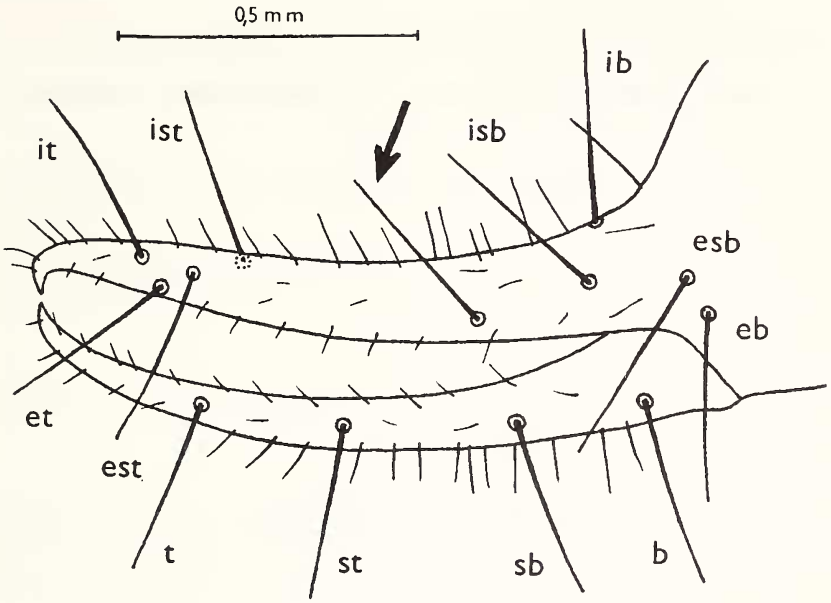

Fig. 1: *Neobisium carcinoides*: anomaly of the chaetotaxy of the left pedipalpal chela.
Abb. 1: *Neobisium carcinoides* Anomalie der Chaetotaxie der linken Palpenschere.

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